

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3695

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: DFA ON MACAPAGAL ASYLUM REQUEST

REF: MANILA 4624

1. DFA UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES TELEPHONED CHARGE AGAIN AFTER LUNCH TO INQUIRE ABOUT ANY "LATE DEVELOPMENTS." CHARGE REPLIED HE DIDN'T KNOW OF ANY BUT PERHAPS COLLANTES DID; HE DIDN'T. COLLANTES MANEUVERED AROUND TO ASKING WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN IN MACAPAGAL'S MIND, WHAT SEEMED TO BE HIS PROBLEM? CHARGE REPLIED THAT MACAPAGAL HAD SEEMED APPREHENSIVE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS. COLLANTES ALLEGING LONG-STANDING CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH MACAPAGAL, NOTED THAT PERHAPS SOMEONE HAD PUT IDEAS IN MACAPAGAL'S HEAD, AND ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC MATTER SEEMED MOST ON MACAPAGAL'S MIND. CHARGE REPLIED THAT SINCE THEY WERE OLD COLLEAGUES, PERHAPS COLLANTES MIGHT ASK MACAPAGAL DIRECTLY. COLLANTES THOUGH PERHAPS MACAPAGAL WOULD NOT WANT TO RESPOND. LETTING THAT SINK IN, CHARGE TOOK THE OCCASION TO REPEAT COLLANTES' ASSURANCES OF LAST NIGHT THAT THERE NO WARRANT FOR MACAPAGAL'S ARREST, THAT HE COULD GO ABROAD ANY TIME HE WISHED, AND THAT GOP IS IGNORING HIM. CHARGE ADDED THAT LAST NIGHT HE HAD PASSED THOSE ASSURANCES ALONG TO MACAPAGAL, AND THEY APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED, PERHAPS ESPECIALLY SO COMING FROM AN "OLD FRIEND."

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2. CHARGE REFERRED TO A POSSIBLE GOP MEETING THIS MORNING CONCERNING MACAPAGAL WHICH COLLANTES DENIED NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD BRIEFED DFA SECRETARY ROMULO ON MACAPAGAL.

3. AS BEFORE, CONVERSATION WAS FORTHCOMING AND COLLEAGUAL IN TONE BUT MINIMAL IN INFORMATION. CHARGE HOPES TO KEEP EXCHANGE THAT WAY AND TO FINESSE COLLANTES' EVIDENT EFFORTS TO EXTRICATE INFORMATION OR NEWS ON CASE WE WOULD LIKE TO TREAT AS IF CLOSED WITH DEPARTMENT'S APRIL 1 STATEMENT.
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